

The Phoenix Foundry, Armstrong Street, c1900

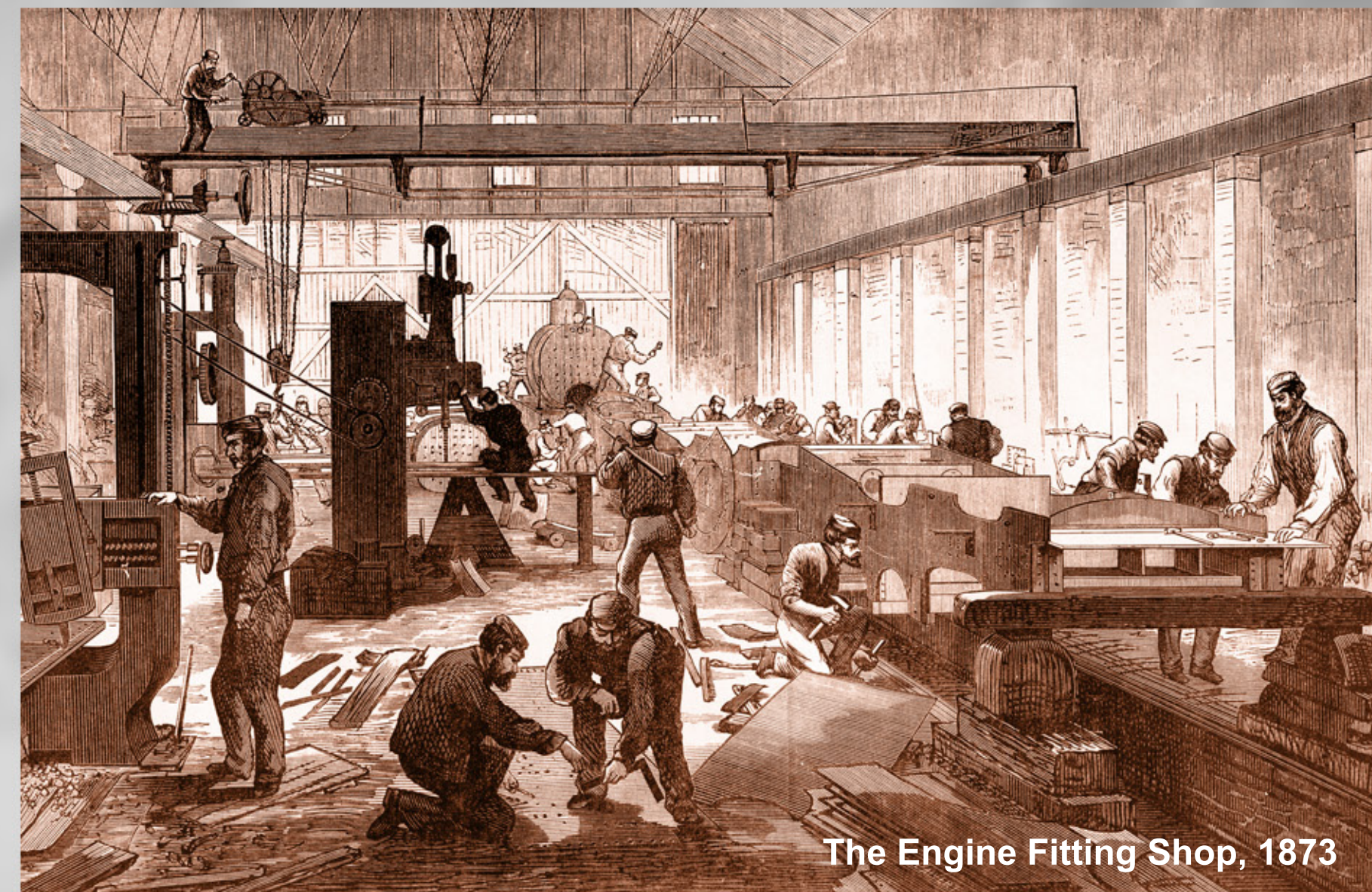
The **Phoenix Foundry** was established in 1856. At first it produced heavy mining machinery such as stamping mills and other gold extraction equipment, and the steam engines to drive them. In 1871 the foundry received an order for locomotives from the Victorian Railways and the first was completed in 1873. Over the next 32 years, more than 300 locomotives, of many different classes, were built. When the Victorian Railways began to build all their own locomotives, there was not enough other work available and the **Phoenix Foundry** was closed on 12 July 1906.

This Phoenix will not rise from the ashes but some of its products still exist.

An 80 horsepower horizontal steam engine drives the stamping mill at Sovereign Hill.

Four locomotives and part of a fifth are preserved.

One is owned by Steamrail Victoria – based at Ballarat East, it continues in operation.

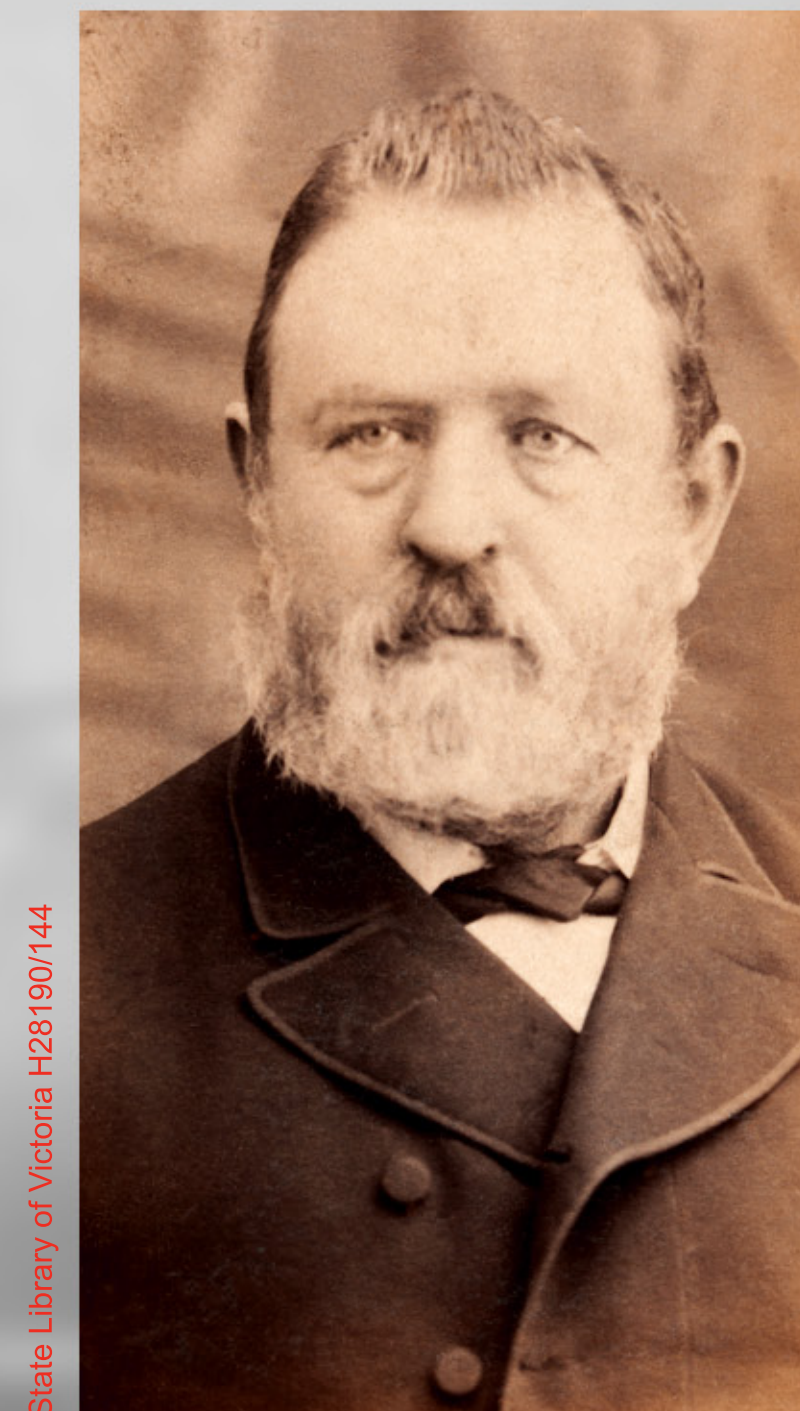


The Engine Fitting Shop, 1873

State Library of Victoria IAN 12/087314



One of Ballarat's largest foundries
A major manufacturer for 50 years
Builder of more than 300 locomotives



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William Henry Shaw
(1830-1896)
Founder & Manager

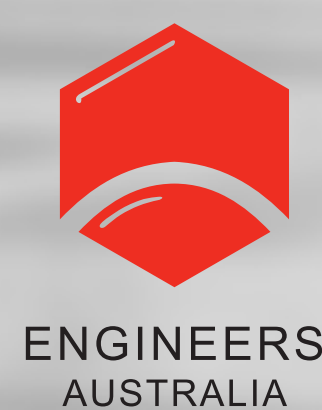
Born in Northern Ireland, Shaw came to Victoria during the Gold Rush in 1853. Shaw was one of the founders of Phoenix and managed it until he died in 1896. After visiting Britain in 1871, he modernised the operation and it became the most advanced of its type in Australia. When the company completed its 100th locomotive in April 1883, Shaw was praised for his "energy and practical experience and indomitable perseverance".



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The Turntable Pivot

The adjacent concrete foundation of the turntable pivot is all that remains today of the Phoenix Foundry. The turntable was installed in 1883. Locomotives were brought out of the Foundry and turned onto a tramway that had been built along Armstrong Street to connect to the main railway line. It was first used on Monday 12 March 1883.



Engineering Heritage Marker
 placed on 12 October 2013

Engineers Australia Victoria Division
 City of Ballarat



For more details about this and other engineering heritage works,
 go to www.engineersaustralia.org.au/heritageregister/search

